

IN THE CLAIMS:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 5. (Canceled).

Claim 6. (Currently Amended): A disk clutch, with which a first body (1) and a second body (2) in which a piston (5) to which a hydraulic pressure is applied is mounted in a rotationally fixed but axially displaceable manner, ~~is~~ are connected to one another in a non-positive manner via intermeshing disks that can be acted upon by the force of the piston (5), of a manual transmission for motor vehicles,

with a spring force of a spring mechanism which influences an adjusting force produced by a power source for operation of the clutch,

wherein the spring mechanism (3) and/or at least one of ~~its~~ a plurality of thrust bearings (6) associated with the spring mechanism is provided with a sensor (4) which detects solid-state changes for determining the spring force emanating from the spring mechanism (3) and

a device for transmitting the measured values thus determined for regulating the adjusting power source,

whereby a deceleration force of the hydraulic pressure applied to the piston (5) counteracting the spring mechanism in the opening of the clutch is part of the adjusting force or thrust force acting on the clutch; and

wherein the sensor (4) is designed as a piezoresistive, amorphous carbon layer applied permanently to a surface area of the spring mechanism (3) or the thrust bearing (6).

Claim 7. (Previously Presented): The clutch according to Claim 6,

wherein the spring mechanism (3) consists of at least one plate spring or a combination of a plate spring with an undular washer.

Claim 8. (Cancelled).

Claim 9. (Previously Presented): The clutch according to claim 6,

wherein the sensor (4) is provided with means for a telemetric signal pickup.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended): A method for operating a clutch comprising the steps of

providing a disk clutch, with which a first body (1) and a second body (2) in which a piston (5) to which a hydraulic pressure is applied is mounted in a rotationally fixed but axially displaceable manner is connected to one another in a non-positive manner via intermeshing disks that can be acted upon by the force of the piston (5), of a manual transmission for motor vehicles, with a spring force of a spring mechanism which influences an adjusting force produced by a power source for operation of the clutch, wherein the spring mechanism (3) and/or at least one of a plurality of thrust bearings (6) associated with the spring mechanism is provided with a sensor (4) which detects solid-state changes for determining the spring force emanating from the spring mechanism (3) and a device for transmitting the measured values thus determined for regulating the adjusting power source, whereby a deceleration force of the hydraulic pressure applied to the piston (5) counteracting the spring mechanism in the opening of the clutch is part of the adjusting force or thrust force acting on the clutch; and

controlling and/or regulating the adjusting force acting on the clutch as a function of characteristic values of the spring mechanism (3) currently determined by the sensor (4); and

wherein the sensor (4) is designed as a piezoresistive, amorphous carbon layer applied permanently to a surface area of the spring mechanism (3) or the thrust bearing (6).